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tants. Distressed state of the industrious poor indistinguishable. Many families have not one shilling per head per week. No relief given, where they had 2s. 6d., as the funds would not admit it."

Southill, near Dewsbury: "Population 315 families: 56 families receive relief: and 108 families, though they receive no parochial aid, suffer very much: average earnings only 2s. 5½ per week. Thirty tradesmen have lately been insolvent; a considerable number in small business suffer as greatly as almost any other class."

Todmorden (near Halifax): "Many deserving, industrious poor, who by exertion in better times have got a house decently furnished, which would be forfeited to the town if they obtained relief, rather go short of subsistence, than see their house broken up." Heckmondwike, in the parish of Birstall, near Leeds:

"Distresses of the labouring poor are great and complicated: many have sold all their goods; some sent to jail for debt, and creditors only deterred from seizing, because they cannot find purchasers. Poor rates inadequate from increase of paupers, numerous applications for relief made weekly, with which it is impossible to comply. Township consists of 2324 individuals, of whom 1119 are in a state of distress." Hartshead: "Contains 73 families, consisting of 397 individuals, whose weekly means, including parochial relief, average little more than 2s. per head."

Disley, near Stockport: "Necessities of the poor urgent and extreme; the writer had not heard of any place inclosing more indigence and perishing want; many families have sought sustenance from boiled nettles and wild greens, without salt."

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From the 20th October to the 20th November, 1812.

Very little alteration in the state of the weather has taken place since last report. In all the late districts, the oat crops have suffered much by the rain, and a considerable loss of grain has been the consequence, besides a serious injury to the straw, which constitutes the principal part of the fodder for cattle.

Great as the wheat crops appeared to be, the price of that grain continues to be high, and oats and oat-meal keep up much above the usual rates at this season of the year.

A great diversity of sentiment seems to exist respecting the potato crops. In those districts where they are in the practice of planting them with the spade, in what is called the lazy-bed way; the roots are small, and greatly deficient in quantity. In the more improved parts of the country, where drill husbandry is practised, the crops are much more productive; and even some of the very late planted potatoes have turned out far beyond expectation. The weather however has not been favourable for ploughing out the drill crops, and there is yet a considerable proportion of them in the ground.

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

TO the innumerable ills already inflicted on the community by war, we have now to add the high prices of the necessaries of life, more especially of those most in use by the poorer classes. Last year these distresses were borne more patiently, from the consideration, that the harvest of 1811 had been to a considerable degree deficient. Another harvest, avowedly more abundant, has intervened, as to wheat and oats producing more than an average crop, and as to potatoes, being nearly, if not altogether, a general average crop; and yet prices keep up, and are at present higher than they were ever known to be at this season of the year. A fall has taken place in England, and as the rise first took place there, our markets may be expected to follow in the fall. Yet a reduction in prices may be looked for only to be temporary, while the grain is hastened forward to market to answer the payment of the rents at this season of the year. The supplies for the army in the peninsula, and since the war with America prevents the accustomed supplies, the demands from the West Indies, added to the deficiency in the harvest, in all the late districts in England, Ireland, and Scotland,

will be likely to enhance prices, as the spring advances. The two former causes, the only ones sufficiently operative to keep prices very high, are fairly attributable to the war. George Canning, in his election-speeches at Liverpool, flippantly declaimed against the fact, that the war was the cause of scarcity, or dearth of provisions. Present circumstances invalidate his assertions, and demonstrate the fallacy of his harangues. To the war we must attribute the foreign demand, as well from the circumstance that war produces a great waste of the articles of human sustenance, as that it shuts us out from the markets of Poland and America, whence supplies were formerly drawn. The depreciation of paper money is also caused by the war, and this circumstance in several respects tends most materially to keep up high prices, by making money of less value, and inundating the country with more of a debased circulating medium, than can be absorbed in the usual channels of trade, and thus leaves a redundancy which keeps up prices.

Among the Occurrences, at page 410, in this Magazine, an affecting representation is given of the distress in many of the manufacturing districts in England, extracted from the correspondence with the Association in London for the relief of the poor. When so deplorable was their state last summer, the distressed may now be expected to be greatly aggravated by the present high rates of provisions, and by trade growing worse, from the effects of the American war. A second year of dearth is always more severe on the poor, as their resources have been previously exhausted, and they are left to struggle with increasing difficulties, with diminished means. War must be considered as the cause of all these evils, and to PEACE we can only look for a removal of them. The people will continue to be distressed in various ways, and their sufferings to increase, until they are so wise as to raise a general demand in favour of peace. To keep them quiet under their sufferings, the general cry is, that peace cannot be obtained; and thus deluded, the people submit to that which they are taught to consider an unavoidable necessity. But peace could be obtained, if our rulers were heartily disposed to seek it, or if the people were wise enough unanimously to demand it. Probably the conditions might be hard, but one consideration should reconcile us to seek an immediate peace: Such has been the uniform result of the war, from its commencement in 1793 to the present day, that every year the conditions, on which peace could have been obtained, have, by the events of the war, been rendered more difficult than in the preceding one. Similar results may be expected during the successive years, through which the war may be protracted.

To adversaries sufficiently numerous, impolicy has now added the Americans. Much infatuation and delusion on this, as well as almost every other subject of the war, has prevailed, and to keep up hopes on this side of the Atlantic, pains have been taken to represent the war as unpopular in America. This view will probably in the end be found fallacious, as most of the other delusions, contrived to make war popular. Among the Documents, at page 409, is inserted a letter relating to America, which appears to give a fair, dispassionate view of the state of parties in that country, and may serve to disabuse some of the popular delusions so prevalent among us, on that subject.

The linen trade discovers no symptoms of amendment. There is very little demand for white linens, and the brown, though above the rate that will bring profit to the bleacher, are very low, when contrasted with the present very high price of flax, and the necessities of the weaver and spinner, from the high prices of provisions. In districts into which the cotton trade has been introduced, those employed in it fare better; but in places where the linen remains the sole manufacture, the distress is very great. A considerable portion of the southern part of the County of Armagh is in this state. We have heard of great distress in the neighbourhood of Keady.

It is singular that from the disrepute in which Irish linens are held in many places abroad, that much of those sent to the West Indies are made up as foreign, and go under the name of Estapillas, and other foreign denominations. The Scotch first made them up in this manner, and many are now sent from Belfast in this shape. It is a subject of serious regret, that cause should have been given for Irish linens to be in disrepute, under their own name.

Prices of bullion in London, 20th inst.—Portugal gold, in coin, £.5 8s. per oz.... Foreign gold, in bars, £.5 8s....New doubloons, £.5 4s....New dollars, 6s. 6d....Silver in bars, (standard) 6s. 7d. per oz.

The difference between these prices, and the mint rates of £3 17s. 10½d., and 5s. 2d. shows the premium of gold over paper. Exchange on London is about 6¼ per cent. in Belfast and Dublin.

The National Bank of Ireland have, it is said, set themselves against speculators, by refusing, in all cases in which they can trace them, to discount bills given for merchandize, which have merely been changed from the possession of one importing merchant to another. This regulation, although it may be complained of by interested persons, will tend to put a salutary check on too extended issues of paper, and damp that rage for speculation, which gives a false appearance of business, and enhances the prices unnecessarily on the consumers of the article. To show the extent of the evil attempted to be corrected, it may be useful to state, that in the year 1808, or 1809, the memorable era of rash speculation, one parcel of cotton was resold six or seven times, without leaving the warehouse of the original owner, and in this course of traffic, had passed and re-passed two or three times through the hands of first sellers. For all these several transactions, different sets of bills were in circulation. It is certainly right to attempt to stop such practices, and it is laudable in the bank, by all proper means, to limit the mass of circulating paper, for the excess of it produces many of our present commercial difficulties, and raises the prices of the necessaries of life.

NATURALIST'S REPORT.

From the 20th October to the 20th November, 1812.

THE extraordinary weather which prevailed during this period has had such an influence on vegetation, that our autumnal flowers have deviated greatly from their common habits. The Asters, that usually decorate our gardens throughout the month of October, have flowered so imperfectly, that the precise period of their full flowering could not be ascertained; and the *Crocus autumnalis* and *Crocus nudiflorus*, as if fearing to display their beauty amidst continual rains, have not shown their flowers this season. The birds also, partaking in the general gloom cast over the country, have not enlivened the vales with their accustomed music, the Wood-Lark (*Alauda arborea*), and the common Wren (*Metacilla Troglodytes*), having sung only on the 27th, 30th, and 31st of October. The calendar of nature presents little, therefore, to the citizen, which can induce him to quit his smoke-enveloped haunts, or excite him to retire from the bloody narratives, and barbarous triumphs of the news-room!

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

From the 20th October to the 20th November, 1812.

October 21,.....Rain at night.
 22,.....Wet.
 23,.....Showery morning, and stormy.
 24,.....Showery morning.—Fair day.
 25,.....Very wet.
 26,.....Wet morning.—Fair day.
 27,.....Fair day.
 28,.....Wet morning.—Fair day.
 29,.....Fine day.—frosty.
 30,.....Wet morning.—Fair day.
 31,.....Fair day.—Wet, stormy night.